

REMARKS

The specification is amended by replacing the term “notches” with “slits” when referring to reference numeral 24 in the figures and “slits” with “indentations” when referring to reference numeral 58 in the figures as appropriate. Support for the amendments to the specification is found, for example, in Figures 3, 5, 7 and 11 and the descriptions thereof.

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 and claim 2 is canceled. Claim 4 is amended by replacing the term “slits” with “notches”.

No new matter is presented.

I. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that the term “slits” in claim 4 refers to “notches” as used in the claim, which is not the accepted meaning.

Applicants note that a “notch” is shown as numeral 25 in Figure 3, and it is preferably located on the crossings of the ribs or of a rib and a circle. Therefore, claim 4 is amended herein by replacing the term “slits” with “notches” as supported by Figure 3 and the description thereof in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10.

For clarity Applicants further submit that a slit is shown as numeral 24 in Figures 3, 5 and 11 and means a long narrow cut. Additionally, an indentation is shown as numeral 58 in Figure 7, which is different from a “notch” and a “slit”.

The specification has been amended appropriately as supported by the figures in the specification as originally filed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Schwinne (U. S. 3,260,362) for the reasons of record. The Examiner asserts that Schwinne discloses insertion portion 9, flat face 6, concentric ribs 3 and 4, and the sequential energy absorbing zones including 2, 5, 7 and 11 which are concentric relative to the center of the device.

Without conceding the merits of the rejection, claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2, which is indicated as being allowable. That is, Schwinne does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of "the flat face is an annular band shape, the outer periphery of the annular band-shaped flat face corresponds substantially to the outermost periphery of the roll-form recording material, and a channel is provided between the annular band-shaped flat face and the flange portion outer peripheral side" as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Schwinne.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

III. Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Schwinne and Crawford

Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwinne (U.S. 3,260,362) in view of Crawford (U. S. 4,657,203).

B. Schwinne in view of JP '249 or JP '249 in view of Schwinne.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwinne (U.S. 3,260,362) in view of JP-2002-244249 or JP 2002-244249 in view of Schwinne (U.S. 3,260,362).

C. JP '249 in view of Schwinne

Claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 2002-244249 in view of Schwinne (U.S. 3,260,362).

D. JP '249 in view of Schwinne and further in view of Crawford

Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 2002-244249 in view of Schwinne (US 3,260,362) as applied to claims 1, 7 and 8 above and further in view of Crawford (US 4,657,203).

Without conceding the merits of the rejection, claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2, which is indicated as being allowable. That is, none of the cited references discloses, teaches or suggests the features of "the flat face is an annular band shape, the outer periphery of the annular band-shaped flat face corresponds substantially to the outermost periphery of the roll-form recording material, and a channel is provided between the annular band-shaped flat face and the flange portion outer peripheral side" as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, for at least this reason, the present invention is patentable over the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejection.

IV. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 and claim 2 is canceled, thereby rendering the objection as to claim 2 moot. Claim 3 depends from amended claim 1 and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim objection.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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